

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2007

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on Monday, June 25, 2007 in Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Lesser called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Lesser
Commissioner Freeman
Commissioner Gravely
Commissioner Jernigan
Commissioner Rodriguez
Commissioner Tanberg

Introduction of the audience followed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lesser reported the following:

- Encouraged Commissioners to read the LA County Administrative Governance report.
- Requested Commissioners to review the Standing Committees chart to determine whether they would like to change or chair any of the Committees. Staff was asked to send the current Standing Committees chart to all Commissioners and changes should be forwarded to staff as soon as possible in order to revise the chart for the upcoming retreat.
- President Lesser and Commissioner Rodriguez attended the Women Health Policy Committee Wrap-up Breakfast on June 20, 2007. Enclosed with the Commissioner packets is a preliminary draft of the recommendations from the Health Policy Summit. (Please be advised that the preliminary report is a draft).
- President Lesser will attend the NACW (National Association of Commissions for Women) Convention on July 11-14, 2007, in Louisville, KY. She is also seeking input from Commissioner on convention topics that they are interested in learning more about. Commissioner Rodriguez suggested that President Lesser find out ways that the Commission can stay better connected with the NACW.
- Mary Wiberg, Executive Director, State of California Commission on the Status of Women, is scheduled to speak to the Commission on legislation and ways to access their resources to better serve the women in the County.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- At the July 9th Commission meeting Robin Guerrero, Deputy Executive Officer, Board Operations and Commission Services, will provide an overview of the LA County Administrative Governance.

APPOINT THE 23RD ANNUAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON CHAIR

At the recommendation of the 22nd Annual Awards Luncheon Committee to appoint the Chair of the 23rd Annual Awards Luncheon after elections of officers, President Lesser appointed Commissioner Tanberg as Chair. President Lesser asked for volunteers to serve on the Committee; Commissioner Freeman will volunteer if there are no other volunteers from the 5th District. Geneviève Clavreul also volunteered to serve on the Committee. Commissioner Freeman gave Commissioner Tanberg the contact information of a few key people from Antelope Valley's Leadership Conference for next year's luncheon.

(Treasurer Creary joined the meeting at 10:16 a.m. constituting a quorum.)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2007

On motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Treasurer Creary with Commissioners Freeman and Gravely abstaining, and duly carried, the minutes of June 11, 2007 were approved with the following corrections: Page 2, 4th Paragraph, ~~They~~ ***President Lesser turned over the elections to staff to commenced commence*** with the voting Page 5, Community Outreach last bullet, Michaela ~~Pereira~~ ***Pereira***,...

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Creary reported on expenditures for the month of May 2007. The beginning balance as of June was \$15,482.11; expenditures were \$2,190.00; income was \$654.30; ending balance was \$13,946.41. The monthly allowance for June 2007 is \$13,946.41. Commissioner Creary reminded staff to send all financial documents to Commissioners who were absent.

REVIEW OF COMMISSION GOALS

Goal # 1 – Empower, influence and help women to forge ahead in acquiring better access to healthcare.

Commissioner Tanberg, Chair of the Health Committee reported that the Committee reviewed the Metro-Care Plan and sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors addressing the Committee's concerns. Dr. Chernof, Director and Chief Medical Officer, responded to their letter addressing their concerns. The Committee will continue to monitor the issues surrounding King-Harbor Hospital.

Committee members participated and attended the Health Policy Summit and reviewed the draft recommendations. In the area of disease prevention, Commissioner Tanberg participated in the Healthy Bones Campaign in support of the prevention of Osteoporosis sponsored by the NACW. The Committee has received the campaign packet and will distribute materials at the 5K Run/Walk, Second District Community Meeting and the 23rd Annual Awards Luncheon.

Commissioner Freeman expressed her concerns for women of faith, who believe in pro-life, and making their experience at crisis centers more comfortable. President Lesser will suggest to the Women's Health Policy Committee to consider including women of faith when writing the final report.

Goal #2 – Empower, influence and forge ahead by enhancing our economic position.

Commissioner Freeman successfully chaired the 22nd Annual *Women of the Year* Awards Luncheon and reported that early planning is essential to have a prosperous event. Also, working closely with staff, involving the past awardees and guests, and sending special letters when making new contacts. The newly implemented Honoree Journal Supporter Ads offered to family and friends of the Awardees were very successful.

Treasurer Creary reported that the Finance Committee recently adopted revisions to the Awards Spending Criteria. The Committee has been reviewing past records to target types of spending, developed new reports listing spending by district to assure its equitable, and is working to develop a new Trust Fund Report.

Goal #3 –Empower, influence and support women to forge ahead to reach gender equity in the workplace.

In the absence of Commissioner Davalos, Chair of the Gender Equity Committee, there was no report given.

**PURCHASE A HALF PAGE AD FOR THE CENTER FOR PACIFIC ASIAN FAMILY
29TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT PROGRAM BOOKLET FOR \$250.00**

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Gravely and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to purchase a half page ad for the Center for Pacific Asian Family 29th Anniversary event program booklet for \$250.00

REPORT ON THE ACCW MEETING HELD ON JUNE 8-9, 2007

President Lesser shared the concept of an exercise that was conducted by a local University Professor. Attendees of the ACCW meeting were asked to name five women who imprinted history making a real difference. They were then asked to think of an issue and report how it would be viewed in the future to change history.

President Lesser requested that this item be placed on the next Commission's agenda for an official report.

REVIEW DRAFT COPY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2007 WOMEN'S HEALTH POLICY SUMMIT HELD ON MAY 24, 2007

President Lesser asked Commissioners for comments on the Health Policy Summit draft recommendations that can be taken back to the Summit Committee or refer to the Health Committee. She would like for Commissioners, when reviewing the draft recommendations, to look for ways to use the recommendations, to influence people or affiliate organizations to make a difference in health care.

UPDATE ON THE SECOND DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING

Commissioner Jernigan reported that the Second District Commissioners met with Deputy Renita Bowlin and discussed the focus for the Second District Community meeting. The Commissioners will meet with Ms. Bowlin by teleconference this week to confirm the date, location, theme and speaker(s). The Second District Commissioners will give a report at the next meeting.

UPDATE ON THE 5K RUN/WALK

Nyla Jefferson, Staff, reported that David Levine, Training Coach for the City of Angels Half Marathon, has offered to provide complimentary fitness classes to County employees to prepare them for the LA County Run for Health on September 15, 2007 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. Mr. Levine will also provide free long distance walking and running training beginning Sunday, July 15, 2007 at Griffith Park from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Training will continue each Sunday ending on September 8, 2007.

Commissioner Freeman gave Ms. Jefferson three County contacts to assist with volunteers and scholarships for Girls At-Risk Scholarship program. Treasurer Creary suggested that she contact the Links Southern California Cluster to participate in the Run/Walk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Older Women's: Pat Wilson, Committee Member announced that the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging is considering having an Older Women's Conference in 2008 and would like the support and participation of the Commission.

Health: Commissioner Tanberg announced that the Health Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 27, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. via teleconference. Treasurer Creary reported that on June 30, 2007, the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to take back all of the County buildings at the King-Harbor site, which will have a tremendous impact on Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

Legislative: Commissioner Jernigan expressed concern for the former Cal-works ladies who are being laid-off from the aerospace industry. These ladies have established a life for themselves and their children and it is now in jeopardy. They will have to be trained in another field to find employment. Commissioner Rodriguez suggested that DPSS be invited to give an update on extensions for former Cal-work participants.

Media/Public Relations: Commissioner Freeman reported that the Media Committee will participate in a joint meeting with the 5K Run/Walk Committee on July 23, 2007.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gwen Evans, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance introduced Elaine Rodriguez as the new representative to the Commission. She also inquired whether Drew Magnet High School would be affected if the Board of Supervisors retrieved the buildings at the King-Harbor site. The Commission suggested contacting the Board of Education for an answer.

Pat Wilson informed the Commission that the League of Women's Voters will host visitors from the Russian Ukraine area during their visit to the United States from September 8 -16, 2007 and thought that the Commission might be interested in hosting them as well.

(Commissioner Becerra-Jones joined the meeting at 11:40 a.m.)

Geneviève Clavreul shared the Sunday LA Times article on King-Harbor, she also informed the Commission that 60% of nurses at King-Harbor failed the nurses exam, after \$21 million dollars was spent for training. Ms. Clavreul is very concerned for the underserved people suffering in the communities surrounding King-Harbor.

Ms. Clavreul advised the Commission of a cease and desist letter that she sent to Mary Wiberg of her promotion of the Michael Moore's documentary "SICKO". She also sent a copy of the letter to Governor Schwarzenegger.

UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL RETREAT

Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported that the Ad-hoc Retreat Planning Committee will meet today following the Commission meeting to discuss the date, location, time and possible selection of a new facilitator. She also mentioned that facilitators can be quite costly, up to \$5,000. Treasurer Creary will not be able to participate in the Retreat if it is on August 13, 2007 and she is not in favor of spending \$5,000 on a facilitator.

Commissioner Gravely suggested that Committee use the facilitator from last year, since she is familiar with the Commission's goals. Commissioner Jernigan requested that the Committee create a retreat budget to be voted on at the next meeting. Commissioner Freeman would like to see continuity by using the same facilitator and the Committee can explore new facilitators for next years retreat.

Commissioner Becerra-Jones will meet with the Committee to prepare recommendations to bring back for the next agenda for a vote.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Creary attended the Women's Leadership Luncheon with Michelle Obama at the home of Giselle Fernandez on June 12, 2007. She also attended the State of the University Address by President Susan Kelly, Charles R. Drew University on June 21, 2007.

Commissioner Gravely attended the Women's Health Policy Summit on May 24, 2007.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA (to be presented and placed on a future agenda):

Commissioner Becerra-Jones requested that Assistant Director of Nursing be invited to a future meeting to speak on the Nursing Scholarship Program in Los Angeles County.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Charlotte Lesser, President
Ruth Creary, Ph.D., Treasurer
Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Peggy Freeman
Wadie Gravely
Ruth Jernigan
Olivia Rodriguez
Bobbi Jean Tanberg

EXCUSED

Reiko Duba, Vice President
Karin Davalos
Janet Mummey, Esq.

UNEXCUSED

Michele Pinedo
Elise ZeBrack

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Sandra Barbee, Rhonda Rangel, Nyla Jefferson, and Twila Kerr Executive Office
Gwen Evans and Elaine Rodriguez, OAAC

GUESTS

Rose Borja
Geneviève Clavreul
Kurt Freeman
Pat Wilson